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# Oxford Democrat.

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## ORIGINAL POETRY.

MR. EDITOR.—The following article was written in haste, and amid other conflicting duties. It was delivered before the Washington Society of Buckfield, &c., at the celebration of Washington's birth day, 22d Feb. last. A vote of the house having been taken, at that time, that it should be published, and many calls for it since, will be a sufficient apology for offering it to your readers.

Yours, Respectfully,  
D. B. MURRAY.

Y'all! glorious day! forever welcome here,  
To memory sacred, and to interest dear:  
Thy coming kindles patriotic zeal  
In many souls, ordained to think and feel.

What feeling thoughts arise at thy return!  
How does the flame within our bosoms burn!  
A holy rapture crowns our joy and mirth,  
Where, as we celebrate our Hero's birth.

Immortal Sir!—in heaven's eternal light,  
Thy fame on earth, nor man, nor time shall blight;  
While rolling years, in long succession run,  
Dares, men, and sires, shall speak of Washington.

He, in our nation's primal hopes and fears—  
He, in our nation's suffering and tears—  
He, in our glorious struggle, rose on high,  
Resolved to live in Freedom, or to die.

But, O, what arm, save God's, could bear him through  
The unequal conflict, with a scattered few,  
While conquering legions, skilled, and armed—to pour  
Destruction wide, were landed on our shore?

Ah! who could hope, amid that infant band,  
The iron grasp of England to withstand?  
Might not a mother's infant, at her breast,  
By her be slain? or cherished, and caressed?

If, demon-like, she raised the murderous knife,  
What hand should spare the tender infant's life?  
Yet, thus our mother, England aimed her blow,  
And smiled to see her infant's crimson flow.

That blow was parried by an unseen hand:  
The infant wept—but struggling, soon did stand:  
And long did strive, in weakness and in pain,  
Its life, its rights, and interests to maintain.

O, England, blush—where is thy glow of shame?  
E'en thy own children scorn thy very name;  
Thy barbarous Laws, thy deeds more barbarous still,  
An awful cup, for thee, one day shall fill.

Look o'er the records of departed years—  
And say—where hast thou not sent death and tears?  
What eager prowling wild-wind through,  
More thirsts for blood, though innocent, than you?

A pampered soldiery to battle led,  
Light paid by spoils, from other tables fed,  
Ye send, just where the hope of victory lies;  
Of right, regardless, and of orphan's cries.

Thus waves your bloody flag, from sea to sea,  
With hell-bent legions, shooting victory!  
From continent to continent, ye bear  
All the dire horrors of unholiest war.

But when with us, that deadly strife begun,  
Kind Heaven arm'd our honor'd Washington,  
With wisdom, firmness, skill, and power to stay  
The work of slaughter o'er the watery way.

How angel-like, he rises, 'mid the storm,  
The work of our salvation to perform:  
Panoplied in the eternal laws of light,  
How calm—how firm—how dignified, the sight!

Deep were his counsels, and accepted, too;  
Strong his command, his lightning forces through:  
Kind was his heart, his fearless, 'mid the strife,  
Where home and country must be bought with life.

The fearful gathered courage from his eye,  
Resolved with him, to conquer, or to die:  
The sick and weak were nourished, by his care,  
And all, his rich benevolence, did share.

He mildly checked the rash and madly brave,  
Who had, but for his prudence, found a grave:  
He thwarted deep designs of force and skill,  
And said, successful, to the foe, "Be still!"

Shame, on the haughty, British legions fell,  
Oft as our falcons did their wrongs repel;  
Astounded at the bold, victorious foe,  
Who show'd them what, brave souls, abused, could do.

At Monmouth, Lexington, and Bunker's Hill,  
What consternation did their bosoms fill:  
These names, O' ye, say, Crown, & Lords, & Peers,  
Do they not speak a caution in your ears?

Boast as they may, of deeds in other lands,  
Of glorious victories, gained by fewer hands:  
These tales belong beyond the Atlantic waves;  
Here, they are hushed by their heroes' graves.

Yes, on this side the deep and stormy main,  
Some of their bravest lie among the slain:  
Low sunk, in death, their joys, and hopes, and fears,  
Cut down amid the brightest of their years.

But Washington, the hero of my lay,  
His conflicts e'er, bore the palm away:  
Yet, why, when seventeen times the foe was fired,  
So far, so e'er—why had he not expired?

Tell us, ye unbelieving souls, what power,  
Shielded our noble Conqueror, at that hour?  
Did each Indian aim, so deadly true,  
So often fail to bore its object through?

Well might the tawny marksman then soothe say,  
In disappointment, as he turned away:  
"No hit un—by bullet, he no die;  
Mo' try un fairly—bullet pass un by."

And so it proved; he was not doomed to die,  
Where din of steel and cannon rent the sky:  
He was not doomed to bleed, in martial strife;  
Angelic guardians kept in charge, his life.

Not like Napoleon, prodigal of blood,  
Drenching the soil, profusely as a flood:  
Not like Napoleon, after victory won,  
To aggravate the woes of the undone.

But merciful, where mercy might be shown,  
To foes or friends, King George's or his own:  
His moral goodness makes his memory dear,  
And crowns, with lasting glory, his career.

His perils o'er and our young nation free—  
From England's grasp of cruel tyranny—  
A ransom'd nation, still, his orders wait,  
For Justice placed him in the Chair of State.

O, glorious day! the clarion swells no more,  
The foe, in shame, has left Columbia's shore:  
Maidens and swains, and parents, all as one,  
Hail Freedom's morn, and bless Washington.

Genius, unchecked, pursues each useful art—  
Travels o'er earth, and sea, and heaven, in part—  
Makes mystery plain, toils light, and man with ease,  
Lord of the earth and monarch of the seas.

Our Eagle rising from a bloody sea,  
Spreads his red pinion o'er the brave and free.  
High poised in heaven, he bids the tyrant fear,  
To plant a footstep on a soil so dear.

The wilderness is changed to fruitful fields:  
The precious mine, the glittering treasure yields:  
Temples, and villages, and cities rise,  
Hallowed in Freedom, 'neath our western skies.

Our Stars and Stripes, bright Ensign of the Free,  
Waves proudly here, and floats on every sea:  
While eastern despots, humbled at the view,  
Correct their measures, and derision, too.

And see! how genius has its power displayed!  
What vast improvements, o'er our country made!  
What power and beauty, skill has ushered forth!  
From East to West—from South unto the North.

Amid the wonders, with which, nations teem,  
I would not, here, neglect the power of Steam!  
What ponderous burdens, does its force convey,  
With speed, on land, and o'er the waves, away!

And though employed, such ponderous loads to bear,  
It draws the wire, small, even, as a hair!  
Though winds may sleep, man rides the rolling waves,  
And on the land, the steed's hard service saves.

'Tis grand—'tis good—but wonderful to see  
The high advances of this country—  
While still, the oppressed of eastern nations flow  
To those blest shores, and leave behind their woe.

The conscience galled by edicts o'er the wave,  
Where persecutions, millions did onslave,  
Here worshipers where, and when, and how it will,  
While Law, to all disturbers, speaks, "Be still."

Yet there's a spirit in our happy land,  
That would, the rights of conscience, here withstand:  
It whipt the Quakers, once, we blush to own,  
And drove one Roger Williams from his home.

Our fathers could not, in a moment slay  
The little tyrant, which they brought away:  
But 'tis subordinate, and never can,  
In fair Columbia, grow to be a man.

The light of science, o'er our country, gives  
The vital energies, by which it lives:  
For giant minds, from hills and forests, rise,  
Made strong by labor, and by knowledge, wise.

If talents shine, among the poor or rich,  
Let them be encouraged—no matter which:  
And virtue oft exalts the former high,  
While oft, the latter, in abasement die.

The hardy yeoman plows the golden soil,  
But still, improves his mind by mental toil:  
He holds the plough, or drives the furrow through,  
But sits in halls of Legislation, too.

Boast as ye may, of realms beyond the sea,  
I'm proud to say, this is the realm for me:  
But well I know, such is the patriot's boast,  
In every clime—torrid or frigid coast.

But let us pause—for o'er our country, wide,  
Intemperance has rolled its deadly tide:  
Our fathers sowed in tears, for times to come,  
Their children were made Prodigals, by Rum.

'Tis fall destroyer of the human race,  
Here, as elsewhere, made all things else give place:  
'Tis almost universal o'er the land,  
And scattered ruin with a powerful hand.

The infant, when it drew its earliest breath,  
Was forced to be baptized into this death:  
And next, in drinks, with tea-spoons, it was fed,  
Cradled in liquor—an incubite breed.

Friends could not meet, or part, without the glass:  
The swain must treat himself also his lass:  
'Tis a guard from cold—in heat 'twas better still,  
'Tis a good at work—the idler drank his fill.

'Twas good in sickness, it was good in health;  
'Twas good in poverty—'twas good in wealth:  
'Twas good if wet—it must be had when dry—  
'Tis a good to raise low spirits—and bring down the high.

Each new Commission, when 'twas recognized,  
In alcohol, was thoroughly baptized:  
And e'en a Deacon would not think it ill,  
To wet his holy office with a gill.

To crown the happy, matrimonial hour,  
'The glass must give exhilarating power:  
To cheer the mourner, o'er his dearest friend,  
'The glass, its soothing influence must lend.

It crown'd a quarrel, at its first and last;  
Made hatred stronger, and made friendship fast:  
In fact, in all professions, it was used,  
And with it, all, themselves, have sore abused.

And long these graceless scenes were acted o'er,  
From town to city, and from shore to shore:  
From land to land the fatal practice spread,  
And laid its millions low, among the dead.

If zeal for God, in human brandy begun,  
'Twas drowned by liquor, Brandy, Gin, or Rum—  
Or Wine, or Cider, old and hard, or Beer,  
While Reason wept, and Wisdom, too, for fear.

If sterling talents made a young man great,  
Who promised much to serve the Church or State,  
Alas! how liable his feet to slide,  
And he to be borne down on Bacchus' tide!

If Love and Hymen, in a rosy bower,  
Had met, and smiled—perhaps, at the next hour,  
Roses lay withered—Love expired in pain,  
And Hymen, with her siren chain.

Remain'd no more: all crush'd beneath the blight,  
Of dissipation's devastating flight:  
If the fond father's hopes, in age, were hung,  
Or twined like ivy, round his darling son—

He saw, with pain, while tottering toward the grave,  
His hopes all blighted, and his son a slave—  
A walking skeleton, a leath'ry one,  
By liquors palsied, blighted, and undone.

The aged father wiped his teary face,  
But could not wipe away the fall disgrace:  
The mother clasped her hands, in wild despair,  
And both sunk down, amid their sorrows there.

If Laws were made to regulate this sin,  
They could not pass without Champagne or Gin—  
And violated then, by great and small—  
E'en Statesmen swallowed liquor, Law and all.

Brandy gave force and utterance at the Bar,  
As well as courage to the man of war;  
Prepared the Doctor for experiment,  
And graves were fill'd by medical consent.

E'en pulpit eloquence, flowing and fired,  
Was sometimes, more by drink, than grace, inspired,  
'Tis would heighten zeal and sympathy to tears,  
Encourage hope, ease conscience, banish fears.

Seamen and soldiers, slighted and despised,  
By drink ground tumbled, pitched, and capsize,  
Even in youth, from stem to stern, a wreck—  
With waves of sorrow breaking o'er the deck.

The farmer, struggling, to redeem the soil,  
Paid part for, by his long, laborious toil,  
Could not forego the pleasures of the cup,  
And so at last, must yield his homestead up.

Mechanics, with good skill, and liberal pay,  
Were needy, penniless, from day to day—  
Change, from their hands to others' drawers went,  
Soon as collected; but for clothes and rent.

In fact, all other comforts, must come in,  
But secondary to the cup of Gin—  
While rags, and tears, and frowns, and woful strife,  
Cursed home, and husband, and children dear, & wife.

The father drank, and raved, and groaned, and died;  
But still, the son, in youthful hope, and pride,  
Bowed down to Bacchus, like his sire of late,  
And shared, like him, the drunkard's common fate.

The disappointed lover sought the cup,  
To check the spasms of courtship broken up;  
The luckless maiden, in her wounded pride,  
'Took to the bowl, and threw her name aside.

Rush'd from her home to haunt some gorgeous town,  
And then, another, as she soon run down;  
To spread contamination far and wide,  
And down to ruin in distraction glide.

Temptations thick, on every hand arose,  
Sweeping the friends of virtue, with the foes;  
While vice and ruin o'er the country flew,  
Encouraged from the highest stations, too.

What sighs, what groans, and mourning rent the air!  
Widows and orphans wailed in wild despair!  
For withered hopes, and friends they could not save,  
From dissipation and the gaping grave.

At length, the subject, some attention gained,  
Called forth an effort, and somewhat reclaimed:  
But means with party creeds and wishes blent,  
Must fail for want of general consent.

Moreover, language, harsh, untrue, severe,  
Raised opposition, when it reached the ear;  
Coercion fanned each spark into a flame,  
And millions, even scorned the Temperance name.

Then scandal travelled o'er the land afar;  
Parties drew lines, and waged a hateful war—  
Each strove to magnify the other's case,  
And cast upon each other, foul disgrace.

Some coward souls, conformed, where o'er they were:  
Some kept their grog in secret—drank it there;  
But talk'd of temperance, artfully and bold—  
And true, at times, they drank their water cold.

Petitions swell'd, and laws fixed o'er and o'er,  
Went down with liquor, as they had before:  
Till to the amazement of the great and small,  
All Laws for liquor, proved no laws at all.

Then Freedom, glorious Freedom, held her way—  
Freedom to drink, and be drunk every day,  
With some exceptions: thus destruction ran,  
Till wisdom introduced a nobler plan.

The wretched sons of Bacchus paused, and wept:  
A few Resolved, and Resolution kept:  
At Baltimore, the glorious work began,  
And happily, in all directions ran.

Praise to that noble few, who led the way  
From paths of vice, where millions went astray,  
Peace, health, prosperity, revived again:  
And shouts of victory! rose on hill and plain.

The name of WASHTON, inspired anew,  
The feeling bosoms of this conquering few—  
And roused the slumbering slaves to rise, and slay  
The tyrant, Alcohol, without delay.

They rose—'twas rose—in manly strength and pride,  
With firmness, did they dash the bowl aside:  
The sick and aim'd were healed—the lost were saved;  
The Temperance flag o'er Bacchus' camp waved.

They came!—they came!—was the joyful cry—  
Thank God—O welcome—was the quick reply—  
And still they came! see! through their ranks afar,  
What bright'ning myriads hail hopes rising star!

No law compelled—no arbitrary force  
Induced this wise and salutary course:  
It seemed as if some power from heaven was sent,  
To stay destruction, and command—'Repent.'

Oft was it said, "Ye cannot, cannot save  
This, that, a third one, from a drunkard's grave."  
Yet, like the Leper, healed by Jordan's flood,  
(As was predicted by the man of God.)

They, too, were healed, made whole from that blest hour,  
They caught the Washington spirit's power:  
They pledged their sacred word and honor, then,  
And, through, foul, were reformed and sober men.

Redeeming Power! we bless thy glorious reign,  
For vice, and fears, and woe, and bondage slain:  
What floods of tears! what ecstasies of grief!  
Have found in thee, kind, permanent, relief.

Hark! how for joy, the prattling children cry:  
What beams of bliss illumine the mother's eye!  
The father—O how changed! how blest'd is he!  
His playful offspring clanking on his knee!

No midnight revel breaks the silent night;  
No reckless husband comes his flock to light;  
The midnight hour is calm as a deep's sweet spell,  
And conscious souls are conscious "All is well."

Though hopes had withered, buds again appear;  
Though much was lost: yet much remains that's dear;  
Too dear to sacrifice at Bacchus' shrine,  
Are earthly joys; much more are those, divine.

O! let us fan the patriotic flame,  
And spread the conquest in our Hero's name,  
Until that scourge, Intemperance, no more  
Shall find one victim on Columbia's shore.

Are any heartless for this glorious cause?  
Let them look round, and then, a moment pause:  
Behold the prospect—think how great the prize!  
And can they spurn it? In their reach it lies.

'Tis but to say, I will, and then be sure  
To keep that promise, like a jewel, pure:  
Who, then, can be so reckless, and so low,  
As his own dear salvation to forego?

Shall Ireland, sunk in ignorance, vice, and crime,  
Tune her sweet bells to moral's healthy chime?  
Dash from her hand, the poisonous bowl, and rise  
Like some bright gem, in heaven's fairest skies—

And fair Columbia chant a mournful strain,  
O'er Rum slain thousands, as her light shall wane?  
Till anarchy and chaos seal her doom  
And Freedom's shriek re-echo o'er her tomb?

Forbid it Heaven! and strengthen all our hands,  
To break Intemperance galling, fatal bands,  
Till this fair land in morals, strength and worth,  
Exceed all realms and kingdoms of the earth.

This was the Pilgrim's home, refuge, and pride;  
For this, our fathers strove, and bled, and died,  
But left a rich inheritance behind,  
The joy, the boast, and glory of mankind.

O! land of rest, from tyrants' cruel chains,  
Bright land of promise, which high Heaven sustains—  
Can we forget thee? can we slight thy charms?  
No—we'll defend thee, e'en 'mid death's alarms.

While sun, and moon, and stars, their courses keep—  
While streams flow onward to the mighty deep—  
While waves shall roll, and plants on earth arise,  
O! may thy fame mount upward to the skies.

Once more redeemed, dearer thy name and place—  
Thy hills and fountains—kindred of our own—  
Hopes, more exalted—tender and sublime  
Shall rise, and round each dearer object twine.

Come, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends—  
Rejoice! rejoice! your country's slavery ends!  
This moral victory's gained by volunteers,  
And wipes away a nation's griefs and tears.



typed by an immense block—or frozen like the polar sea—or been turned into a solid mass. There is one peculiarity in it: every officer is allowed to flag the next below him, with bamboo. Consider the Vice President whipping the Vice President, the Vice President whipping the Secretary, and the Secretary whipping the Representatives, and you can understand the discipline among the celestials. When equals flag each other in China, however, they use sticks, and do not strike with the fists, bite and scratch like our belligerent members of Congress. After alluding to the fluidness for a flowing dress among the Chinese, and their severe laws enforcing it, and giving a ludicrous picture of the fate that would befall one of our starched and stiffened dandies, should he be subjected to them, the lecturer spoke of the collision between China and England. He thought the former not wholly free from blame, and that it was not so much the desire to prevent trade in opium, as the fear on the part of the Government of the influence of intercourse with foreigners, which had led to the contest. The British, however, were greatly to be censured if they meant to force the Chinese into a commercial treaty. But good would perhaps come out of evil. The Chinese are poor soldiers, armed with bows and arrows, and old match locks; the barrels of the latter are full of holes, eaten out by the rust, so that the powder, which is very weak, may creep out of the sides, when it cannot reach the muzzle. An army of fifty thousand soldiers might capture the country; whether they could keep it is another question. The people would be glad to throw off the Tartar Yoke; and the collision with Great Britain may end in the deliverance of the celestial empire and its admission in the family of nations.

We have given but an imperfect outline of Mr. Braman's remarks; and have failed to repeat the sharp wit and pungent satire with which they were somewhat highly seasoned.

#### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I herewith lay before you an official communication from the Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State for the United States, under date of the eleventh of April last, relating to the North-eastern Boundary. By which, it will be perceived, that "Lord Ashburton, a Minister Plenipotentiary and special, from Great Britain, has arrived at the seat of Government of the United States, charged with full powers from his Sovereign to negotiate and settle the different matters in discussion between the two Governments."—And, that in regard to the Boundary question, he has officially announced to the Government at Washington, that he has authority to treat for a conventional line, or line by agreement, on such terms and conditions, and with such mutual considerations and equivalents, as may be thought just and equitable; and that he is ready to enter upon a negotiation for a conventional line as soon as the General Government shall say it is authorized and ready on its part, to commence such negotiation.

Under these circumstances, the President of the United States has invited the co-operation of the Governments of Maine and Massachusetts in an endeavor to terminate this long pending controversy.

The communication states further, "that without the concurrence of the two States whose rights are more immediately concerned"—the duty of the General Government will be to adopt no new course; but to hasten the pending negotiations as fast as possible." And it is subsequently added, that "the Government has agreed to make it [the Boundary question] matter of reference and arbitration, and it must fulfil that agreement unless another mode of settling the controversy should be resorted to with the hope of producing a speedier decision."

The President then proposes, it is stated, "that the Governments of Maine and Massachusetts should severally appoint a commissioner or commissioners empowered to confer with the authorities of the General Government upon a conventional line, or line by agreement, with its terms, conditions, considerations, and equivalents, with an understanding that no such line will be agreed upon without the consent of such commissioners."

It is further stated, that in a view of the fact, that the British Mission "is a special one, and its stay in the United States is not expected to be long"—"that, more than four months of the session of Congress has already passed," its return, perhaps, being necessary, if, happily, a treaty should be concluded—"the importance of the subject"—and "a firm conviction in the mind of the President that the interests of both Countries, as well as the interests of the two States more immediately concerned, require a prompt effort to bring this dispute to an end, constrain him to express a earnest hope that the Executive of this State will convene the Legislature and submit the subject to their grave and candid deliberation."

With this request I have deemed it my duty to comply; and now submit for your consideration the matters presented in the communication foregoing.

This step has not been taken without mature deliberation. The expense of an extra session—the busy season of the year—the danger of distracted councils—as well as other considerations bearing upon the point, have not been overlooked. But weighty as they are, it has nevertheless seemed to me, that I should not have been justified in refusing to give the people an opportunity, through their Representatives, to entertain and decide a question of so much importance as the one now presented. And whatever might have been my individual opinions to the ultimate action that should be had, the duty of convening the Legislature would have been regarded as no less imperative; this duty being distinct from, and independent of, that devolving upon the Legislature when convened. The responsibility of further action now rests with you; by whom, I have no doubt, it will be met and discharged with that calmness, prudence, and deliberation, required not less by your high reputation, than fidelity to your constituents.

The question presented for your consideration is not a party question—but is, emphatically a State question—one in which the whole people are interested, and on which their opinions and

wishes should be truly reflected. The subject of the Boundary has ever appeared to me to constitute a common ground from which party policy and party strife should be sedulously excluded, and on which no other contention or rivalry should be witnessed than that which naturally springs from an ardent zeal in the cause of the State. That the question immediately before us is not free from embarrassment and difficulties, is manifest, and it is equally clear that a calm, dispassionate consideration only, can lead to satisfactory results.

When we regard the clearness of our title to the territory in controversy—the frivolous and unfounded pretensions of the British claim—the long and vexatious delay that has been designedly affected—the frequent invasions and occupation of our territory—the devastation of our forests—the arrest and imprisonment of our citizens—there is danger that an honest indignation may lead us to overlook many important considerations necessary to a discreet and sound decision.

It is due therefore to the subject that we view it in other lights. One alternative now contemplated, it seems, by the General Government, is a submission of the question to another arbitration. Against this, Maine has ever remonstrated, and I believe will continue to remonstrate. We cannot perceive the difference, so far as authority is concerned, between doing a thing directly and indirectly. If the General Government has no power to cede directly any portion of the territory of this State, neither has it the power to accomplish the same thing through the forms of an arbitration. But right or wrong in our position—successful or otherwise as we may be hereafter in maintaining it—we see as a matter of fact, that the General Government is determined to attempt the exercise of such a power, and thus once more jeopard our territory, unless some other mode of adjustment be agreed upon. That this should be seriously considered in connection to a decision, is obvious.

Whatever may be the claim, however, of the General Government, as to its power through indirect action, it does not claim the power of ceding, directly any portion of our territory, or of directly agreeing to any other line of boundary than that described in the treaty of 1783. Yielding to the correctness of our position in this respect, the General Government now asks this State for authority thus to settle the existing controversy, and invites her co-operation in affecting that object.

The British Government also, is now prepared to propose, for I am so disposed to regard the matter, what may be thought to be "a just and equitable equivalent" for a portion of that which she has heretofore claimed as her own. If this is not going as far as some may deem the honor of the State requires, it certainly is far less objectionable than most that we have been accustomed to receive from that quarter.

If any thing less than this is intended, I am persuaded that nothing will be accomplished in the way of an adjustment. If it is to be said, as has been said, that the treaty line is impracticable, and therefore, a new line must necessarily be agreed upon—or that the case is so involved in doubt and difficulty that the only equitable way of resolving it is by "splitting the difference"—and dividing the territory in some agreed proportions if not regarded as absolutely insulting, would not, I am confident be favorably listened to by a single citizen of the State. The treaty line we know to be a practicable one—our claim to the whole territory embraced within that line we know to be just—and after the course that has been pursued in regard to it, we have a conviction not to be shaken, that we could not honorably relinquish a part to obtain an undisputed right to the remainder. But if Great Britain is prepared to substantially yield the point of title, and offer us a fair equivalent, in other territory, privileges of navigation &c. for a portion of this territory, as I am at present disposed to believe, I do not see why this vexed question may not be put forever at rest. And it is difficult to perceive, how Maine, in thus consulting her interest, would compromise her honor.

Entertaining these views, I am free to say, that I think favorably of the appointment of Commissioners by the Legislature, with such powers as a just view of the case would seem to require—and not wishing to avoid my share of responsibility, I cheerfully recommend that course.

It may be that I have formed a too favorable opinion of the present disposition of the British Government, and that a totally unreasonable, and of course, unacceptable proposition will be made to us—what then? Would it necessarily follow that we had erred in appointing Commissioners and placing ourselves in an attitude to learn what the proposition would be? We shall, to be sure, have incurred the expense of an extra session of the Legislature; but we shall have shown to our sister States, and the world, that having a just cause, we are disposed to adopt a liberal and fair course in conducting it—and that, through strenuous and ardent in the maintenance of our rights, we were not obstinately on a course tending to increase irritation, or bring about hostilities between the two Countries. Let what would be the result, Maine would stand, as she has heretofore stood, if possible.

But it may be objected that the Government of the State has heretofore decided this question, and refused to invest the General Government with a power similar to that now solicited. I apprehend, however, that, on recurrence to the proceedings referred to, it will be found that the proposition was then understood to be, that the Executive of the United States should be clothed with an unlimited power of fixing a new and conventional line,—and that we were not to wait for propositions from the British Government, but were to volunteer them on our part.

Governor Kent, in his special message to the Legislature of March 14, 1833, says:—"The grave and important question therefore presented for your consideration, as you will more fully perceive by the documents referred to, is, whether you will clothe the Executive of the United States with the unlimited power of fixing a new and conventional line." And again:—"If a direct proposition had come to us, through the General Government, for a specific line of boundary, yielding to us territory or privileges of navigation equivalent to the unsettled territory which we might cede to them, it would certainly have presented the question to us in a different aspect,

But the question now is, as I understand it, whether we shall take the lead in abandoning the treaty and volunteer propositions for a new line."

The proposition then presented as understood by the Governor and Legislature, was entirely different from the one now to be considered; and of course the resolve adopted by the Legislature at that time, cannot justly be regarded as committing the present Legislature on this point, or in any degree impeding its free course of action.

I cannot close this communication without respectfully reminding you that this session has been called for a specific object, and expressing an earnest hope that your deliberations will be confined to that object; and that, as much despatch will be made, as may be consistent with due deliberation; thereby paying a respectful regard to the strong expectations of the people on the score of economy.

JOHN FAIRFIELD.  
Council Chamber, May 18, 1842.

#### MR. WEBSTER'S LETTER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, April 11th, 1842.  
To his Excellency JOHN FAIRFIELD,  
Governor of Maine:

Your excellency is aware that previous to March 1841, a negotiation has been going on for some time between the Secretary of State of the United States, under the direction of the President and the British Minister accredited to this Government, having for its object the creation of a joint commission for settling the controversy respecting the North-eastern boundary of the United States, with a provision for an ultimate reference to arbitrators, to be appointed by some of the Sovereigns of Europe, in case an arbitration should become necessary. On the leading features of a Convention for this purpose the two Governments were agreed, but on several matters of detail, the parties have differed, and appear to have been interchanging their respective views and opinions, projects and counter-projects without coming to a final arrangement down to August, 1840. Various causes, not now necessary to be explained, arrested the progress of the negotiation at that time, and no considerable advance has since been made to it.

It seems to have been understood, on both sides, that one arbitration having failed, it was the duty of the two parties to proceed to institute another, according to the spirit of the Treaty of Ghent, and other treaties; and the President has felt it to be his duty, unless some new course should be proposed, to cause the negotiation to be resumed, and pressed to its conclusion. But I have now to inform your Excellency that Lord Ashburton, a Minister Plenipotentiary and Special, has arrived at the Seat of Government of the United States, charged with full powers from his Sovereign to negotiate and settle the different matters in discussion between the two Governments. I have further to state to you, that he has officially announced to this Department that, in regard to the Boundary question, he has authority to treat for a conventional line, or line by agreement, on such terms and conditions, and with such mutual considerations and equivalents, as may be thought just and equitable; and that he is ready to enter upon a negotiation for such conventional line as soon as this Government shall say that it is authorized and ready, on its part, to commence such negotiation.

Under these circumstances, the President has felt it to be his duty to call the serious attention of the Government of Maine and Massachusetts to the subject, and to submit to those Governments the propriety of their co-operation, to a certain extent and in a certain form, in an endeavor to terminate a controversy already of so long duration, and which seems very likely to be still considerably further protracted before the desired end of a final adjustment shall be attained, unless a shorter course of arriving at that end be adopted, than such as has heretofore been pursued, and as the two Governments are still pursuing.

Yet without the concurrence of the two States whose rights are more immediately concerned, both having an interest in the soil, and one of them in the jurisdiction and government, the duty of this Government will be to adopt no new course, but, in compliance with treaty stipulations, and in furtherance of what has already been done, to hasten the pending negotiations as fast as possible.

But the President thinks it a highly desirable object to prevent the delays necessarily incident to any settlement of the question by these means. Such delays are great and unavoidable. It has been found that an exploration and examination of the several lines constitute a work of three years. The existing commission for making such exploration under the authority of the United States, has been occupying two summers, and a very considerable portion of the work still remains to be done. If a joint commission should be appointed, and should go through the same work, and the commissioners should disagree, as is very possible and an arbitration on that account become indispensable the arbitrators might find it necessary to make an exploration, and survey themselves, or cause the same to be done by others of their appointment. If to these causes, operating to postpone the final decision, be added the time necessary to appoint arbitrators, and for their preparation to leave Europe for the service, and the various retarding incidents always attending such operations, seven or eight years constitute, perhaps, the shortest period within which we can look for a final result. In the meantime, great expenses have been incurred, and further expenses cannot be avoided. It is well known that the controversy has brought heavy charges upon Maine herself, to the remuneration or proper settlement of which, she cannot be expected to be indifferent.

The exploration by the Government of the United States has already cost a hundred thousand dollars, and the charge of another summer's work is in prospect. These facts may be sufficient to form a probable estimate of the whole expense likely to be incurred before the controversy can be settled by arbitration; and our experience admonishes us that even another arbitration might possibly fail.

The opinion of this Government upon the justice and validity of the American claim has been expressed, at so many times, and in so many forms, that a repetition of that opinion is not necessary. But the subject is a subject in dispute. The Government has agreed to make it matter of reference and arbitration; and it must fulfil that agreement, unless another mode of settling the controversy should be resorted to with the hope of producing a speedier decision. The President proposes, then, that the Governments of Maine and Massachusetts should severally appoint a commissioner or commissioners, empowered to confer with the authorities of this Government upon a conventional line, or line by agreement, with its terms, conditions, considerations, and equivalents, with an understanding that no such line will be agreed upon, without the assent of such commissioners. This mode of proceeding, or some other which shall express assent to a conventional line is to be had, since if happily a treaty should be the result of the negotiation, it can only be submitted to the Senate of the United States for ratification.

It is a subject of deep and sincere regret to the President that the British Plenipotentiary did not arrive in the country, and make known his powers, in time to have made this communication before the annual session of the Legislatures of the two States had been brought to a close. He perceives and laments the inconvenience, which may be experienced from re-assembling those Legislatures; but the British mission is a special one; it does not supersede the resident mission of the British Government at Washington, and its stay in the United States is not expected to be long. In addition to these considerations, it is to be suggested that more than four months of the session of Congress have already passed, and it is highly desirable, if any treaty for a conventional line should be agreed upon, it should be concluded before the session shall terminate; not only because of the necessity of the ratification of the Senate, but also because it is not impossible that measures may be thought advisable, or become important, which can only be accomplished by the authority of both Houses.

These considerations, in addition to the importance of the subject, and a firm conviction in the mind of the President that the interests of both Countries, as well as the interests of the two States more immediately concerned, require a prompt effort to bring this dispute to an end, constrain him to express an earnest hope that your Excellency will convene the Legislature of Maine, and submit the subject to its grave and candid deliberation.

I am with great respect,  
Your Excellency's obt. serv't,  
(Signed) DAN'L WEBSTER.

#### REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS, IN RELATION TO THE NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY.

The Joint Standing Committee of both Houses of the Legislature to which was referred the Governor's Message, of the 18th instant, with the accompanying communication from the Secretary of State of the United States, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to report the following Preamble and Resolutions.

EDWARD KAVANAGH, Chairman.  
Committee Room, 20th May, 1842.

#### Resolves in relation to the North Eastern Boundary of this State.

WHEREAS the preceding Legislatures of this State, in conformity with the well-settled conviction of all the People thereof, and with incontrovertible evidence before them on the subject, have uniformly declared that the Boundary of Maine, on its Northern and North Eastern frontiers, as designated in the Treaty of 1783, can be laid down and fixed according to the terms of that Treaty; and that such line embraces all the Territory over which this State claims property, sovereignty and jurisdiction; and the Executive and Congress of the United States having recognized the validity of that claim in its full extent, this Legislature renews such declarations in the most solemn manner; and

Whereas, for a series of years, every attempt to adjust the vexed questions in regard to the establishment of the said Boundary having proved ineffectual, it has been represented to the Government of this State that the Minister Plenipotentiary and Special of Her Britannic Majesty, at Washington, has officially announced to the Government of the United States, that he has authority to treat for a conventional line, or line by agreement, on such terms and conditions, and with such considerations and equivalents as may be thought just and equitable; and that he is ready to enter upon such negotiation for a conventional line as soon as the Government of the United States shall say that it is authorized, and ready on its part, to commence such negotiation; and

Whereas the Government of the United States not possessing the constitutional power to conclude any such negotiation without the assent of Maine, has invited the Government of this State to co-operate to a certain extent, and in a certain form, in an endeavor to terminate a controversy of so long duration;

Now, considering the premises, and believing that the People of this State, after having already manifested a forbearance, honorable to their character, under long-continued violations of their rights by a foreign Nation; and, though not disposed to yield to unfounded pretensions, are still willing, in regard to the proposal now made by the General Government, to give additional evidence to their Fellow Citizens throughout the United States of their desire to preserve the peace of this Union, by taking measures to discuss and conclude, if possible, the subject in controversy in a manner that will secure the honor and interests of the State, this Legislature adopts the following Resolutions; with the understanding, however, that, in the event of a failure in such endeavor towards an arrangement, no proceedings thereunder shall be so construed

as to prejudice in any manner the rights of the State as they have been herein asserted to exist.

Resolved, That there shall be chosen by ballot, in Convention of both branches of the Legislature, four Persons, who are hereby constituted and appointed Commissioners, on the part of this State, to repair to the seat of Government of the United States, and to confer with the Authorities of that Government touching a Conventional line, or line by agreement, between the State of Maine and the British Provinces, and to give the assent of this State to any such line, with such terms, conditions, considerations and equivalents as they shall deem consistent with the honor and interest of the State; with the understanding that no such line be agreed upon without the assent of such Commissioners.

Resolved, That the said Commissioners be furnished by the Governor with evidence of their appointment, under the seal of the State.

Resolved, That the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in said Commission by death, resignation, or otherwise.

Resolved, That the said Commissioners make return of their doings herein to the Governor, to be by him presented to the Legislature at its next session.

#### RHODE ISLAND.

The last accounts from this State, are of a contradictory character—but from what we can gather from the accounts, we are inclined to the belief that the Suffrage party have backed out and the Chartists maintain their ground. Eleven Senators and Representatives elected under the people's Constitution have resigned. Several accounts state that Gov. Dorr has left the State—but the Boston Post is informed by a gentleman from Providence that Dorr had not left Providence nor secreted himself; but that he and his friends left Mr. Anthony's house and stationed themselves on the hill, at the suggestions of a United States officer, to see if a compromise could not be effected without bloodshed.

It is stated that a body of citizens, under Gov. King and Col. Blodgett, marched into the very midst of the Suffrage party, without molestation, and surrounded Mr. Anthony's house. A detachment then went into the house, and on searching, Gov. Dorr could no where be found. The leaders on the part of the suffrage party had dismissed their men, and advised them to retire peaceably from the ground. A large party retired in compliance with this request. There does not appear to have been any attempt made to obstruct the proceedings of Gov. King.

The suffrage party refused to leave the cannon, which they were in possession of, but after considerable parleying, they finally told Gov. King and his friends, that they would take the guns back to the places from which they took them, but that they would not have them, without resistance, taken from them. The troops under Gov. King were then drawn up in Market Square, and after a brief address from their commander, Col. Blodgett, they were dismissed and repaired to their armories.

A large meeting was holden in State street, Boston, on Wednesday last, to take measures to encourage and assist the Suffrage party. It is stated that there were four or five thousand people present. Gen. John McNeil presided, and a long string of resolutions were adopted. We think the Suffrage party can take care of themselves—and that with prudent and wise council they will be more likely to accomplish their objects than they will by bullying and "fighting with wind-mills." All our feelings and sympathies are with the Suffrage party and we most heartily wish them success. But we are opposed to mobocracy in all shapes and forms. [Portland American.]

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC MEN.—There can be no doubt that one of the principal causes of the great popularity of General Jackson was the fearlessness with which he assumed responsibilities. When once convinced that a thing was right in itself, and that it was his duty to do it, he never hesitated. Andrew Jackson never stopped to inquire whether A. B. and C. thought this, or the other act, would render him popular, or unpopular. His only inquiry was as to right, the ability to do, and duty. This was, and is the true secret of Andrew Jackson's popularity, with the people.

There is more in the advice of David Crockett to his son than too many public men have moral courage to practice. "Be sure you are right, and then go ahead." A timid demagogue's first inquiry is "what will the people say of me, if I do this, or that." A courageous honest politician's first inquiry is—"what is right—what does duty, under all the circumstances, require of me?"

It is no uncommon thing to hear men inquire what the people say, and having found out, they will say precisely the same thing. We do not intend to say that public opinion is not to be properly respected. A man in India would be very foolish to treat the idols worshipped by the natives with indignity. There are many foolish fashions in this country that a prudent man should not purposely run his head against. To treat the opinions, however erroneous, of a man with contempt is injudicious for more reasons than one. By such means you both make him your enemy, and close his heart against conviction.

We do not mean to say either that the representative is not bound by the known will of his constituents. On the contrary, we hold, most rigidly, that he is; and that in all cases, when it is unequivocally expressed, it is his duty to obey, or resign. What we do mean to say is, that in many cases it is very difficult, if not impossible, for a representative to know what the opinions of a majority of his constituents are, and that in others a majority may not have thoroughly investigated the matter, and have, therefore, formed no opinions. In these cases it is his duty to do what he honestly believes to be right. His constituents, in such a case, will respect him infinitely more, even if they should not, upon investigation agree with him, than if he manifested

indecision and weakness, fearless discharge by way for a man to a people.

In fact a public man granted that the people what he sincerely believes charges his trusts to meet the approval of his constituents, and their confidence, even they entirely agree with him.

While "honesty is the best man" will continue of God.—Argus.

#### OXFORD PARIS

It will be seen, by fish to-day of the practical Society, that or at least a portion of worthy zeal, determined for themselves and for they live, by the for payment of their moral individual exertions to fore do to promote They have seen the formation of Societies in Counties in our own from this cause, a large created and nourished ducts of our soil great of neat stock, horses much improved and creased. If these States and other Counties in Oxford by its remains for you, farming lag behind your brethren whether you will put gies and go ahead, even foremost.

There is a sort of p this business—in do something to the public every farmer does not sort of apathy—a cool which is a great repro which, we lament to s we fear, indulge. T longer to exist. We Society will be most County, and that its is now about one hund ed. We have not nee just father. We inte the mean time we in Agricultural friends space in our paper ve

MEETING OF T On Wednesday at 10 o'clock State met at Augusta, agree Governor for an Extra Session, present, and 176 members of the Roll.

A message received by the ing the communication fromington, upon the subject of the dered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Kavanag curing therein, the message ing document be referred sitting of nine on the part of Smith, Otis, Brigham, S. Phineworth and Fuller, were The House joined in a McLaughlin of Livermore, Orro, Lee of Hockport, Pope, Pattern of Skowhegan, F. E. of Newville, Dirckx of Str of London, and ordered 100 printed.

SENATE. Messrs. Scott their seats. No Senator is crossed out, the message morning at ten o'clock. House. Mr. Burd of Bre Gen. Joseph Stevens, that the mittee on the Militia, at the which was at the suggestion be the present.

Mr. Baker by leave laid organization of the militia, some remarks between Mess. Thon and Dorr, the House in tion.

SENATE. Mr. Kavanagh Boundary, and a Report, on pointment of Commissioners. Mr. Leavitt moved that assigned for their second re session, on at 5 o'clock the motion presented. 1000 copies of the R to be printed.

Mr. Otis from the same relation to the indemnity of M took expedition, which were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Humphrey offered a R Congress, and requesting of present the passage of a law of Congress from \$8 to \$5, position. The Resolve was of The Senate then adjourned.

AFRICANA. Mr. Strat pealing the act of hat excise sentatives to Congress, which assigned.

Joint order from the Ho Committee to re-district the gress, came from the House, laid on the table. The Preamble and Resol were reported back without a second time the question u to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Parrie, their passage. After some Parrie, Leane and Eastman, o'clock to convene tomorrow. A joint order came from the mittee to re-district Congress, on the ratio of ten. The Senate then adjourned. On the 11th of May, the House void the danger of lo the acts of town officers when sworn.] Read twice and th Bill to the Committee on the motion was then made to refer which was agreed to, and On motion of Mr. McLaughl ing, that the general Commit







